

The ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

May 1990



Members' Special Previews

"Life Through Time The Evidence for Evolution"

May 30, 31, and June 1

from 6:00
to 9:00 p.m.



Deinonychus

Susan Middleton CAS 1989

Three special evenings offer members the unique opportunity to preview the Academy's new permanent exhibit hall, *Life Through Time*. A visit to *Life Through Time* takes you on a three and one-half billion year journey. Located in the McBean-Peterson Hall, connected to the Fish Roundabout, *Life Through Time* features more than 60 exhibits, recreating scenes of how our planet appeared millions of years ago with lifelike models, fossils, reconstructed skeletons, and modern living relatives of ancient plants and animals. A specially designed interactive computer program, "LIFEmap," lets you select any life form and trace its genealogy through time. Representing more than four years of collaboration between Academy artists, designers and scientists, *Life Through Time* combines state-of-the-art exhibits with the most up-to-date scientific information

available. *Life Through Time* opens to the public on June 9th.

The Morrison Planetarium staff developed a special sky show to go with *Life Through Time*. The show, "Time Before Life," is free for you at 7:00, 8:00, and 9:00 p.m. each night.

A light supper will be on sale at the Jungle Cafe from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. The Academy Store will also be open.

To accommodate our 22,000 members and to avoid crowding, we ask that members whose last names begin with A through I attend Wednesday, May 30, J through R on Thursday, May 31, and S through Z on Friday, June 1st. If you are unable to come on your designated night, please do come on your most convenient night.

The next members' meetings are June 13 and 14 with Dr. Amos Nur on "Earthquakes in the Holyland."

Traditional Arts



*Que-Lam Le
and
Ngoc Lam*

Travel the world and experience other cultures without leaving home! Traditional Arts programs introduce visitors to cultures from all over the world every Saturday at 1:00 p.m. in Wattis Hall of Human Cultures or the auditorium. These programs are made possible through a generous gift from the Paul L. and Phyllis Wattis Foundation and are free after general admission. For more information, call (415) 750-7142.

May 5—Que-Lam Le and Ngoc Lam perform Vietnamese songs and music on the *dan tranh* (16-stringed zither).

May 12—The Brian Cleary Dance Company presents "Dancing the Spirit of Ireland"—a selection of dances to the sounds of fiddle and concertina. The ensemble will illustrate the different steps and tempo of the reel, the jig, and the hornpipe, wearing costumes that are fine examples of the lace and needlework traditions of Ireland.

May 19—Conceição Damasceno, Mestre Beicola, and other members of Ginga Brazil entertain us with folk dances from the state of Bahia in northern Brazil. To the accompaniment of live music, the repertoire features Samba de Roda and elements of Candomblé rituals.

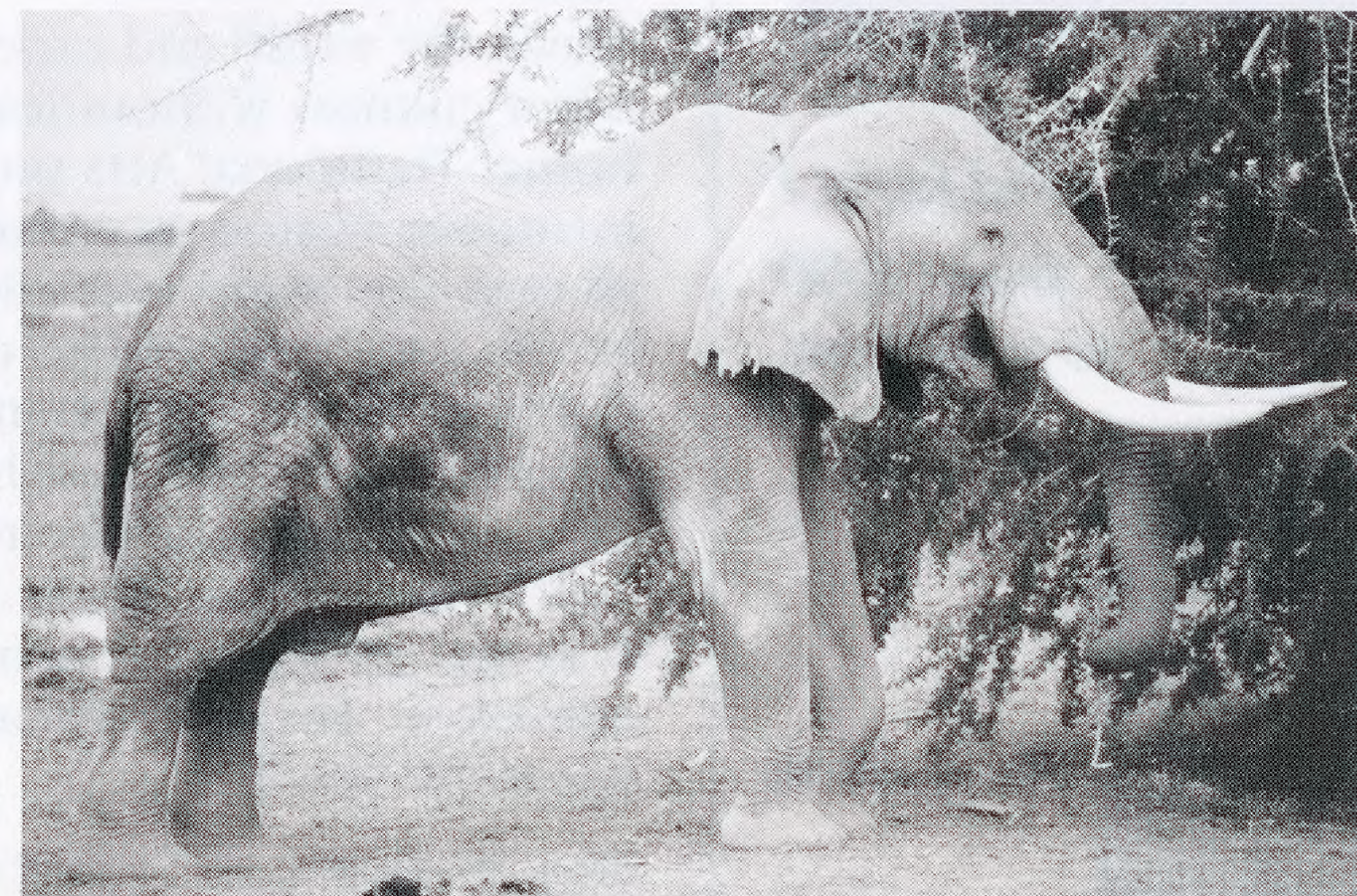
May 26—Laotian refugee Muey Sio Saefong demonstrates the stitchery techniques of Iu Mien embroidery, explaining the symbolic motifs of the designs and showing how the costumes are customarily worn.

REMEMBER: Visit San Francisco International Airport and see the Academy's Exhibit

Lecture

*The California Academy of Sciences
and the L.S.B. Leakey Foundation
presents*

*The Allen O'Brien Memorial Lecture
The Honorable Philip E. Leakey, M.P.
Kenyan Perspectives: Tradition and Conservation
Tuesday, May 22 Reception 6:00 p.m., Lecture 7:30 p.m.*



The L.S.B. Leakey Foundation

The interrelated issues of wildlife conservation and economic development pose a tremendous challenge to emerging African nations such as Kenya. The recent public burning of twelve tons of ivory to highlight the fight to save the elephant demonstrates the degree to which the Kenyan government is willing to act in order to protect its wildlife.

As a political insider, the Honorable Philip E. Leakey, M.P., will discuss the government's role in balancing the opposing forces within the country. The youngest son of Drs. Louis and Mary Leakey, Philip Leakey was educated in

Kenya and raised as a member of the "Leakey Team" in their search for remains of the earliest humans. His experiences with wildlife led to his career as the Assistant Minister for Natural Resources and Environment for the Kenyan government. Currently, he serves as the Assistant Minister for Technical Training and Applied Technology.

To purchase tickets, please use the convenient order form below. Reservations for the reception must be received no later than May 15. For more information, please call (415) 750-7217.

Ticket Order Form—May 22 Kenyan Perspectives

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Daytime phone _____

Lecture only:

_____ \$5 member tickets

_____ \$7 non-member tickets

Please send your check payable to the California Academy of Sciences and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

The Special Programs Office
California Academy of Sciences
Golden Gate Park
San Francisco, CA 94118

Reception and Lecture:

_____ \$20 member tickets

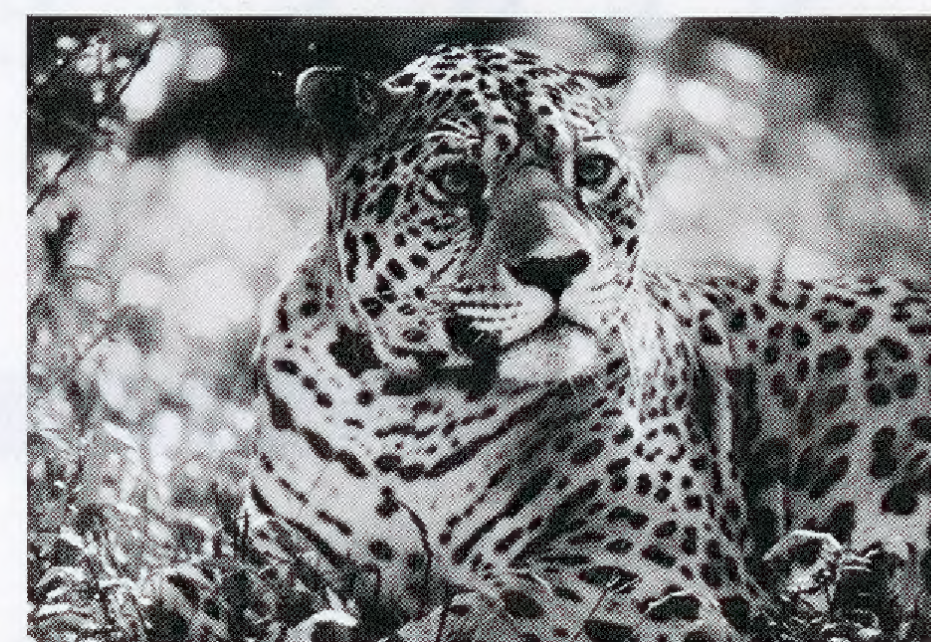
_____ \$25 non-member tickets

No refunds/No exchanges

Lecture

El Tigre Hombre

Tuesday, May 8 7:30 p.m.



Wildlife Conservation International

Dr. Alan Rabinowitz, known in many circles as the Jaguar Man, will present a slide/lecture presentation about his most current research on jaguars, leopards, the "vulnerable," clouded leopard of Malaysian Borneo, and the many smaller cats of Thailand's western rainforests.

His book, *Jaguar: One Man's Struggle To Establish The World's First Jaguar Preserve*, will be available for a book signing immediately following the presentation. Dr. Rabinowitz's amazing experiences include being bitten by a sick and dying Jaguar, surviving a plane crash in the jungle, and being chased by the severed head of the extremely venomous fer-de-lance snake. Tickets for this lecture are \$3 for members and \$5 for non-members. Please call (415) 750-7217 for ticket availability.

How To Get Involved— Volunteers Needed

The Business and Finance Division has a variety of special projects needing your unique talents in any of the following areas: Accounting, Business Forms Design, IBM-PC Training and Programming (4GL/SQL), Office space layout, PERT, Statistics, Telecommunications and more. We and the hours are flexible, including evenings and weekends.

Please call the Volunteer Office at (415) 750-7154.

Spring Fever



Susan Middleton

Spring Fever in Academy Courtyard

Spring is always one of the busiest and most exciting seasons at the Academy, full of special programs, events and educational activities for everyone. The museum is full of students enjoying planetarium shows and the Academy's exhibits on what may be their last field trip of the school year. For members seeking to avoid the crowds, weekdays after 1 p.m. offer quiet times to visit. Also, while members are admitted free to the Academy every day of the year, the First Wednesday of the month is free to all, and the museum is always brimming with visitors.

EARTHNEWS on KCBS Radio

Science In Action, the live call-in radio program, has changed its name and airtime. The new program is EARTHNEWS and airs between 4:00–6:00 p.m. on Sundays. The program discusses issues, such as global warming, from a variety of perspectives, including the science, health and political significance.

May 26—Bing Quock, assistant supervisor of Morrison Planetarium, and Jerry Kay, host of the Academy's syndicated radio program EARTHNEWS, speak as part of an "evening under the stars" on Mt. Tamalpais in the 3,000-seat Mountain Theater. A star party follows the talk and is a wonderful opportunity to view the sky. The program starts at 8:30 p.m., is free, and will be fun for the whole family. For information, call the *Science in Action* hotline at (415) 750-7300.

Academy Expeditions Travel The World

Join an Academy Expedition and see the world. With well-informed tour lecturers learn the cultural and natural history of a region. Enjoy and relax while you explore!

*Indonesia: Secret Islands
East of Bali*

June 3–20

Lecturer: Dr. John McCosker

*Treasures of Pre-Columbian
Mexico*

June 26–July 10

Lecturer: Dr. John B. Carlson

*Alaska and the Queen Charlotte
Islands*

September 5–19

Lecturer: Dr. David Kavanaugh

Fall in Vermont

September 26–October 1

Pakistan and India

September 25–October 17

Lecturer: Nancy Pickford

Foods of Italy

October 4–18

Lecturer: Narsai David

Brazil and Argentina

November 1–19

Lecturer: Stephen Leatherwood

*For more information,
call (415) 750-7222.*

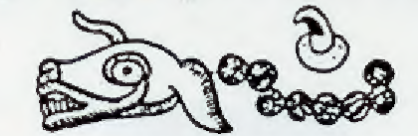
Scientists Activities

- Charles Cecil, Anthropology Department, attended the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences held in Cincinnati.

- Robert Drewes, Public Programs and Herpetology Department, went to Africa to lead a group in Kenya, to give a lecture in Dar-Es-Salaam, and to survey a future research project in Uganda.

- Stephen Bailey, Birds and Mammals Department, was elected Adjunct Professor by the Biology Department of San Francisco State University.

Academy Expeditions Mexico's Ancient Empires June 26–July 10



This tour will focus on a wide variety of environments, cultures, and time periods of Central Mexico's prehistory, and on recent field-work that has provided amazing new discoveries. With our scholar-in-residence John Carlson, Ph.D., well-known expert on Precolumbian Mesoamerica and Director of the Center for Archaeoastronomy at the University of Maryland, we will visit Teotihuacan, once the largest Precolumbian urban center in the Americas, and the Templo Mayor, the ceremonial center of the Aztec capital of Tenochtitlan. We'll explore El Tajin, the political and ceremonial center of the impressive Veracruz cultures, and marvel at the recently discovered murals at Cacaxtla. Near Oaxaca lies Monte Alban, the ancient mountain-top city with a 2300-year history, and Mitla, whose intricate geometric stonework is unique among Mexico's major ruins. We'll visit Chalcatzingo, an important Olmec frontier site off the beaten tourist track, and see spectacular finds from the Olmec heartland at the new, highly acclaimed Jalapa Museum.

For information and a brochure, please call the Academy Travel Office at (415) 750-7222.

Library Rebound

The San Francisco Foundation has awarded a grant of \$10,000 to the Academy to help rebind books damaged in the Loma Prieta earthquake. The Academy Library suffered no structural damage in the tremor, but numerous books were damaged when they fell from shelves. The publications are an invaluable resource to Academy scientists and their colleagues in the study of life on Earth. The Academy is grateful for the support and concern of its members and the community.

Lecture

Adventures of the California Desert Naturalist

Highlights of five years of biological exploration and study
Thursday, May 24 Reception 6:00 p.m. Lecture 7:30 p.m.



Robert Stebbins with Lace Monitor (Australia)

This slide/lecture presentation will focus on the process of biological discovery in the desert, illustrated with personal experiences with desert wild animal life, and the colleagues, students and others that shared the pleasures and sometimes the humor and travail of studying nature first hand.

Dr. Robert C. Stebbins will present guidelines that will assist others to enjoy the great diversity of natural values in the desert, and that may help to ensure the integrity of the desert's wildlands now and in the future.

There are artists and there are scientists, and once in a great while it happens that both talents appear in a single individual. Such

a man is Dr. Robert C. Stebbins, Emeritus Professor of Zoology at the University of California at Berkeley and professional artist whose paintings and drawings have graced the pages of dozens of books and journals for the past three decades. Now, for the first time, Dr. Stebbins' paintings are the focus of a museum exhibition here at the Academy.

As a scientist, Dr. Stebbins is internationally recognized for his work on the ecological and behavioral significance of the pineal gland and the parietal eye in reptiles. From 1956 to 1970 he was the recipient of National Science Foundation grants and a postdoctoral fellowship to pursue this area of investigation. He has published numerous articles on zoology in scientific journals and has also authored several books including: *A Field Guide to Western Reptiles and Amphibians* (Peterson Field Guide Series). The author will be available for a book signing immediately following the lecture.

To purchase tickets, please use the convenient order form below. Reservations for the reception must be received no later than May 17. For more information, please call (415) 750-7217.

Ticket Order Form—May 24 Adventures of the California Desert Naturalist

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Daytime phone _____

Lecture only:

_____ \$3 member tickets

_____ \$5 non-member tickets

Please send your check payable to the California Academy of Sciences and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:
The Special Programs Office
California Academy of Sciences
Golden Gate Park
San Francisco, CA 94118

Reception and Lecture:

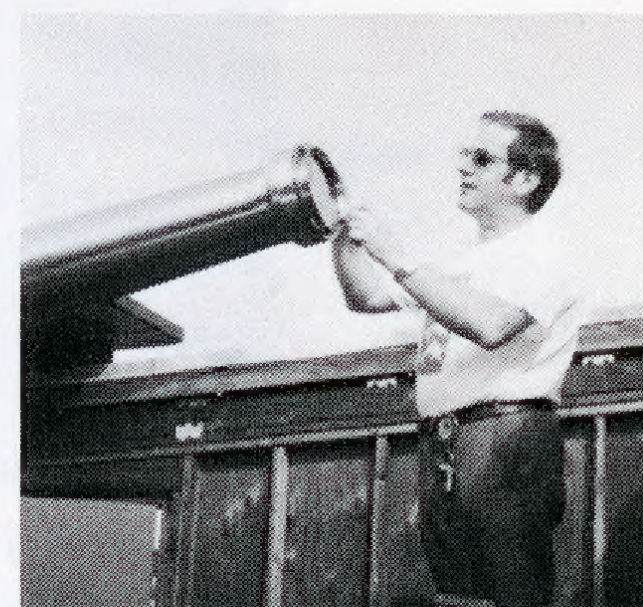
_____ \$13 member tickets

_____ \$15 non-member tickets

No refunds/No exchanges

114-Year-Old Lens Gets a Face Lift

John Weight
and
114-year-
old Lens



Erika Davis

On March 19 the objective lens for the 6 1/2-inch Davidson refractor telescope, first set up in 1879 by George Davidson, former Academy president, returned to service in our observatory at Pepperwood Nature Preserve. This fine lens was ground and polished by Alvan Clark in 1876. After a century of gradual deterioration of the front surface, a layer of approximately 5/1000th inch thickness was removed without changing the precise spherical curvature. Critical observations, made the day of reinstallation, showed that now the lens is in great shape!

Leon Salanave, an Academy Fellow and astronomy associate, supervised the restoration of the Davidson telescope for use in a permanent observatory. John Weight, Academy instrument maker, and Erika Davis, planetarium intern, assisted in the installation and readjustment of the lens. This project is part of the on-going work to improve and add to our facilities at the Hume Observatory.

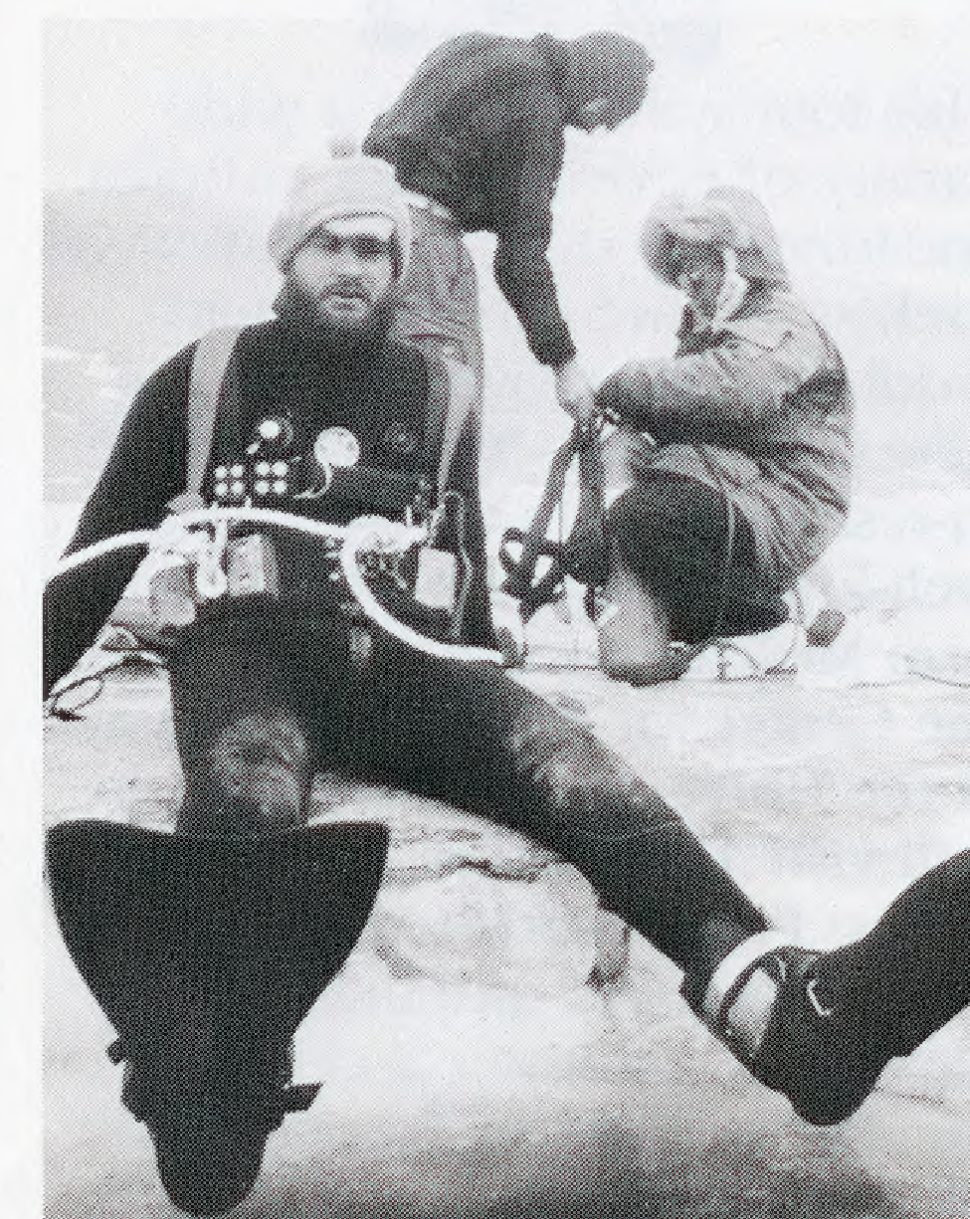
Comet Austin

Discovered last December, Comet Austin has a chance to become the brightest comet in the sky since the appearance of Comet West in 1976. In May, the comet will be located in the predawn sky, rising in the northeast before the sun, near the stars of the Great Square of Pegasus. Early estimates suggest that the ghostly comet should be visible to the naked eye, but binoculars will certainly help. NOTE: Any predictions of comet brightness and actual visibility are uncertain.

Lecture

From Antarctica to Mars: The Quest For Life

Tuesday, May 8 7:30 p.m.



Dr. Chris McKay in Antarctica

Results from the 1976 Viking missions to Mars seem to indicate that the red planet is currently devoid of life. However, the surface of Mars shows direct evidence that there was liquid water flowing sometime in the past. To investigate the conditions that may have prevailed on early Mars and the possibility that life could have survived, NASA and the National Science Foundation have jointly funded research in the valleys of

Antarctica. These cold, dry valleys are the closest terrestrial environment to the cold conditions on Mars.

On May 8, 1990, the Morrison Planetarium presents Dr. Chris McKay, Planetary Scientist with the Space Science Division of NASA Ames. His talk will discuss the U.S. Antarctic Research Program with which he's been involved since 1980. Also involved in planning future missions to Mars, McKay will discuss the possibility of human settlements on that distant planet. The program begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Planetarium. Seats are available on a first-come first-served basis. This is the last program in the Spring "Exploring the Universe" series. To receive advanced information on the Fall series, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to "Universe," Morrison Planetarium, California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA 94118.

This free series is made possible through the generosity of the Benjamin D. Dean Endowment Fund. For more information on seat availability, please call the "Universe" line at (415) 750-7129.

Adult Education

Explore The Canyons Of The Ancient Southwest

Canyon de Chelly
June 2-8, 1990

Join Dr. Linda Cordell, the Academy's Irvine Curator of Anthropology on a discovery trip into the heart of Canyon de Chelly. This canyon is the site of more than a hundred ancient villages that were occupied by the Anasazi between A.D. 350 and 1400. We will explore a lesser-known part of the canyon with ruined villages and fields, and view the artistic legacy in dozens of rock panels. Astronomical expert, Von Del Chamberlain, will help us explore the ancient

star ceilings of the cliff dwellers. We will learn the Navajo history of the canyon from Harry Walters of the Navajo Community College Tsaille, Arizona, and from our Navajo host, David Wilson. This trip involves camping with day hikes up to seven miles. Price: \$595. Another tour will be going to the Chaco Canyon Outliers June 8-13. Price: \$545. Both trip prices include meals and transportation from Farmington, N.M. For further information, contact the Adult Education Office at (415) 750-7098.



Young Audiences

Sunday, May 27 1:00 p.m.

With major funding from the McKesson Foundation and Grants for the Arts, Young Audiences proudly presents an exciting series of performing arts programs for children, taking place one Sunday each month in Wattis Hall of Human Cultures. They are free after general admission. This month, Opera Ensemble presents "How to Make an Opera." The program combines the magical elements of musical theatre in a charming lyric comedy culminating with a scene from "The Marriage of Figaro."

Can You Help?

Our Researchers need your assistance in funding some specific Science projects. Here are some examples:

- \$12.50 will bind one volume of an important scientific journal in the Library
- \$30.00 will purchase one storage drawer for additions to the insect collection in Entomology
- \$40.00 will contribute to the purchase of a delicate vacuum system to clean Native American baskets in Anthropology
- \$50.00 will buy one set of acid free folders for storage of type specimens in Botany (A type specimen is the one individual plant for which a species is named.)
- \$75.00 will pay for the restoration or preservation of an antiquarian research volume in the Library.

Your donation of any size will help our research efforts. We thank you for your generosity. If you have any questions, please call Carol Prince in the Development Office at (415) 750-7223.

Yes, I would like to help.
Enclosed is my donation of \$ _____ for _____
Please make checks payable to the California Academy of Sciences and send to: Science Projects Development Office
California Academy of Sciences
Golden Gate Park
San Francisco, CA 94118

*Time Dated Material
Please Expedite*

*Life Through Time
Preview
Information Inside*

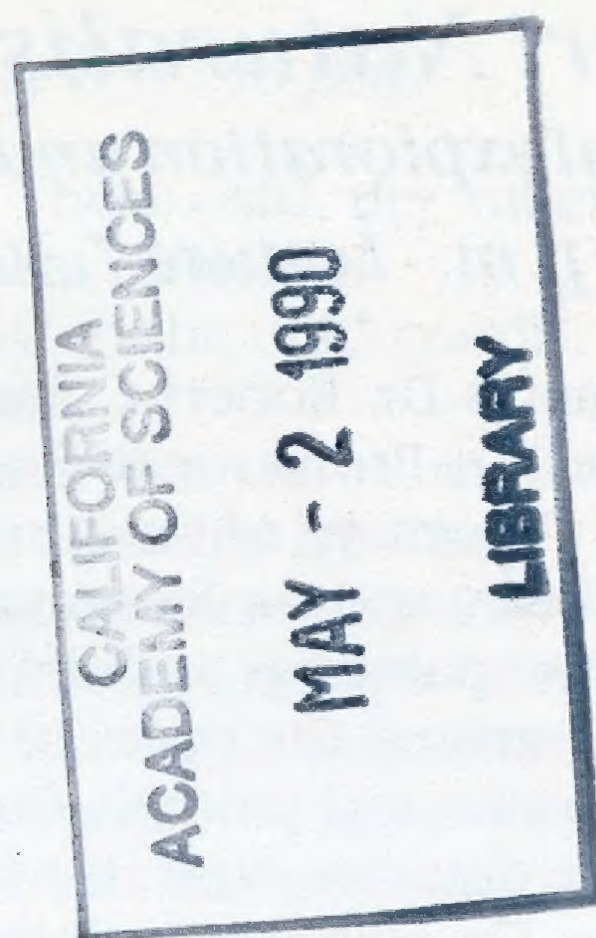
Open daily 10 am to 5 pm

(415)221-5100

*San Francisco, California 94118-4599
Golden Gate Park*



May 1990



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Calendar of Events—May

- 1 Academy's Airport Show opens at SFO
- 5 Traditional Arts, 1:00 p.m.
- 8 Lecture: "From Antarctica to Mars," 7:30 p.m.
- 8 Lecture: "El Tigre Hombre," 7:30 p.m.
- 12 Traditional Arts, 1:00 p.m.
- 19 Traditional Arts, 1:00 p.m.
- 22 Lecture: "Kenyan Perspectives," 7:30 p.m.
- 24 Lecture: "Adventures of the California Desert Naturalist," 7:30 p.m.
- 26 Traditional Arts, 1:00 p.m.
- 27 Young Audiences, 1:00 p.m.
- 30 Members' Preview: *Life Through Time*, 6:00–9:00 p.m.
- 31 Members' Preview

Coming Up in June

- 1 Members' Preview
- 9 *Life Through Time* opens

The Academy Store

For Fun In The Park



• *Create magical bubbles... with the Store's new Bubble Wand, complete with its own bubble recipe!*

• *Fly a kite with your children... with our wonderful blue and white dolphin kite, complete with string and easy to assemble!*

Bring a picnic and your family to Golden Gate Park... with a stop at the Academy Store for a wonderful selection of toys, books and activities for the whole family's enjoyment.